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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln. of: St. John

Appln. No.: 09/387,195

Filed: August 31, 1999

For: A VOICE RECOGNITION SYSTEM FOR
NAVIGATING ON THE INTERNET

Attorney Docket No: 10022-111

Examiner: Angela
Armstrong

Art Unit: 2654

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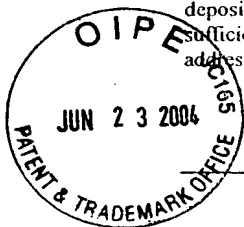
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Our Case No. 10022-111

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: St. John

Serial No. 09/387,195

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For: A VOICE RECOGNITION SYSTEM FOR
NAVIGATING ON THE INTERNET

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) Examiner: Angela Armstrong
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) Group Art Unit No. 2654
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APPLICANT'S APPEAL BRIEF

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I. Real Party in Interest

This is an appeal from the final rejections in the Office Action mailed on January 30, 2003 (Paper No. 21) for the application of Vicki St. John, and is timely filed in accordance with Notice of Appeal filed on April 30, 2003. The real parties in interest are the assignee, Accenture LLP, and Accenture Global Services GmbH, a Switzerland company. Both of these entities are associated with Accenture, Ltd., a publicly-traded Bermuda-based company.

II. Related Appeals and Interferences

There are no related appeals or interferences that would affect, be affected by, or have a bearing upon, the Board's decision in the present appeal in this application.

III. Status of Claims

Claims 1-33 are pending in this application. Appeal is taken from the final rejection of Claims 1-33 in the final Office Action mailed on Jan. 30, 2003 (Paper No. 21).

IV. Status of Amendments

The last amendments filed in this case were mailed by Applicant on May 28, 2002, as part of the request for continued examination. The Amendments were entered. No other amendments are pending.

V. Summary of Invention

The claimed subject matter is described in several places in the present patent application. The disclosure in the figures is principally made in Figs. 1, 8, 9, 21-27, 29-31, and 33-36. Other figures may contain support for particular elements or features, such as those found in dependent claims. Textual support is found in the specification on p. 3, lines 3-19, on p. 37, line 13 to p. 9, line 14; on p. 74, line 27 to p. 83, line 15; on p. 84, line 27, to p. 87, line 22; p. 88, line 8, to p. 89, line 26; and

on p. 89, line 27, to p. 95, line 13. Other textual support for particular elements or features, such as those found in dependent claims, may be found on other pages.

The invention is a method for recognizing voice commands for manipulating data on the Internet. The method of Claim 1 comprises steps of providing data on a website on the Internet, receiving voice signals from a user accessing the website, establishing an identity of the user through at least two voice authentication algorithms, interpreting the voice signals of the user for determining navigation commands, and outputting selected data of the website based on the navigation commands. See specification, p. 3, lines 3-7. Claim 19 is similar to Claim 1. Other independent claims claim a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium, and a system, for accomplishing the same tasks. See Claims 7, 13 and 30.

Independent Claim 26 claims a system for accessing and navigating data on the Internet using voice signals. See Figs. 1, 8-9, 21-27 and 35-36, and the specification, p. 37, line 13 to p. 38, line 29, and also p. 89, last line, to p. 95, line 13. The system comprises including a transducer for transducing and transmitting signals indicative of a voice, a terminal for receiving signals indicative of the voice, the terminal further comprising a receiver, an analog front end, and a codec. The system also includes an interface between the terminal and a processor and a processor for receiving and processing signals from the transducer and the terminal through the interface, wherein a user inputs a voice signal to the transducer, access to the data on the Internet is allowed if the voice signal matches a previously-stored voice signal from the user using at least two voice-authentication algorithms, and the system interprets the voice signals of the user for determining navigation commands.

VI. Issues

The issue on appeal is whether the Examiner erred in rejecting Claims 1-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over a magazine article by Kondo et al. ("Surfin' the World Wide Web in Japanese") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,913,196 to Rita Talmor et al. ("Talmor").

A. References

The Kondo article, "Surfin' the World Wide Web in Japanese," was written by K. Kondo and C.T. Hemphill, and appeared in a conference proceedings by the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers), entitled, "1997 IEEE International Conference Proceedings on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing, 1997, ACASSP-97." Kondo is directed to solving problems and using technology to open up access to the WWW and the Internet, going so far as to improve for the Japanese language a system useful for recognizing voice recognition commands in English. The article is directed to using a Speech Aware Multimedia (SAM) system to use Japanese speech to browse Japanese pages on the World Wide Web (WWW). The article is directed in particular to two problems that interfere with the use of Japanese, that is, problems with the language itself and from the electronic notation of the Japanese language.

The Talmor patent, U.S. Pat. No. 5,913,196, issued on June 15, 1999, from an application filed on Nov. 17, 1997. The Talmor patent is directed to a system and method for establishing an identity of a speaker. Talmor in particular teaches the importance of accuracy in recognizing or authenticating a person attempting to access a computer system remotely. Talmor teaches the use of at least two voice authentication algorithms, each-different from the other. Talmor teaches independently analyzing a voice of the speaker by each of the at least two voice authentication algorithms, to obtain independent positive or negative authentications of the voice by each of the at least two algorithms.

Applicant has recently discovered that the text in the present application at pages 76-83 is identical to the text in Talmor at columns 5-8, and also that Figs. 22-27 of the present application are similar to Figs. 1-6 of Talmor. The Applicant was not aware of this when the application was filed, and it is presumed that the attorney who drafted this application expressly incorporated the text and Figures of Talmor to describe the relevant features of Applicant's invention. However, the attorney who prepared and filed the application is deceased, and was not associated with the current attorneys of record.

B. The Rejection

It is the Examiner's position that Claims 1-33 of the application are unpatentably obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the Kondo reference in view of the Talmor reference. The Examiner's rejections indicate that most of the limitations of the inventions claimed in Claims 1-33 are present in Kondo, but that Kondo fails to teach explicitly establishing an identity of the user through the voice signals, but that this feature is well known in the art. The Examiner cites Talmor as disclosing a method for identifying a person's identity over a secured network comprising the step of establishing the identity of the user through at least two voice authentication algorithms. The motivation given by the Examiner for combining the references is that "it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to implement the voice verification system of Talmor in Kondo's voice browser, for the purpose of establishing the identity of a speaker via voice authentication for authorized access to a secured system, as suggested by Talmor (col. 3, lines 6-8)." Office Action dated Jan. 30, 2003, Paper No. 21, page 3, lines 1-4 (hereinafter, unless otherwise noted, citation to "Office Action" refers to the Office Action mailed on Jan. 30, 2003, Paper No. 21).

The Examiner further states that it is proper to combine the two references because "the references are in the same field of endeavor because both are drawn to voice recognition implementation in a computer network system." Office Action, p. 5, lines 7-9. The references were combined "to provide for user voice authentication for access to a voice command navigation system." Office Action, p. 5, lines 10-11. Finally, the Examiner states that "since Kondo teaches using speech to access and navigate the Internet and Talmor teaches speaker identification via voice authentication algorithms for authorized access to a secured computer network system, the combination therefore provides support for the claimed limitations." Office Action, p. 5, lines 11-14.

VII. Groupings of Claims

The Examiner has made only one rejection, of all the claims in the application. 37 C.F.R. 1.192 states that for each rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103, the

argument shall specify the errors in the rejection, and if appropriate, the specific limitations in the rejected claims which are not described in the prior art relied on in the rejection.

The Claims do not stand or fall together with regard to rejections over the prior art. In order to separately consider a plurality of claims subject to the same rejection, the Applicant must state that the claims do not stand or fall together and present arguments why the claims are separately patentable. In re McDaniel, 63 U.S.P.Q.2d 1462, 1464 (Fed. Cir. 2002) (citing M.P.E.P. 1206 and 37 C.F.R. 1.192(c)(7)). Arguments for the claim groups listed below are presented in the arguments section. Accordingly, Applicant provides the following claim groups:

Claims 1, 7, 9, 13, 15, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 30, and 31;

Claims 2, 8, and 14;

Claim 3

Claims 4, 10, 16, and 32;

Claims 5, 11, 17, and 33;

Claims 6, 12, and 18;

Claim 21;

Claim 23; and

Claims 26-29.

VIII. Argument

The rejections of all claims, Claims 1-33, over the references of record under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are in error because the references contain no disclosure and no suggestion of the *specific* combination of elements contained in the claims. Furthermore, even if some of the elements in the references are construed as certain elements of the inventions claimed in Claims 1-33, it is only with impermissible hindsight that the references are combined to render obvious the present application.

Claims 1, 7, 9, 13, 15, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 30 and 31

The Examiner admits that Kondo fails to explicitly teach establishing the identity of the user through voice signals. Office Action, p. 2, line 21-22. The Examiner cites Talmor for the claim limitation of "establishing an identity of the user through at least two voice authentication algorithms.

By the arguments given below, only with impermissible hindsight would one be motivated to combine Kondo with Talmor to arrive at the invention claimed in the present application. Accordingly, the rejection is in error because one would not be sufficiently motivated to combine the references.

The combination of the references is improper. The Examiner has not given a sufficient motivation for combining the references that outweighs the contradictory teachings of the references concerning the level of access for users on the Internet that teach away from the combination. The combination of the two references is therefore improper.

Because all of the rejections in the present application are under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and apply the same two references, this argument applies to each of the groupings of claims in the rejection. Further arguments as to whether the improper combination discloses (or does not disclose) all the limitations of the claims are given below for each claim grouping as noted in the sub-headings.

A person having ordinary skill would not be motivated to combine Kondo's voice command recognition with Talmor's voice authentication system. Prior art must be considered in its entirety, including portions that teach away from the claims. M.P.E.P. 2141.02 at 2100-120. A rejection cannot be predicated on the mere identification of individual components of claimed limitations; particular findings must be made as the reason the skilled artisan, with no knowledge of the claimed invention, would have selected these particular components for a combination in the manner claimed. In re Kotzab, 55 U.S.P.Q.2d 1313, 1317 (Fed. Cir. 2000).

Kondo is clearly directed to opening access to the World Wide Web (WWW) as far as possible. Kondo et al. have developed a Speech-Aware Multimedia (SAM) [system] which controls a WWW browser using English speech, and they now have

"extended its capability to use Japanese speech to browse Japanese pages, and developed a prototype using speaker-independent, continuous speech recognition with Japanese context-dependent phonetic models." Kondo, p. 1151, Abstract, lines 3-7. Other portions in the article bemoan obstacles to Japanese users accessing the WWW, and states that if Japanese users "were allowed to use speech to access the Web, they would have a much smoother introduction to the computer and the internet." Id., p. 1151, col. 2, lines 23-25. The thrust of the Kondo article is to open up the WWW, and to improve the SAM so that users may navigate the WWW by voice. Id. at 1151, col. 1, lines 31-32.

As admitted by the Examiner, Talmor teaches the use of speech recognition for authorized access only to a secured computer network system. Office Action mailed Jan 30, 2003, p. 2, last three lines. Talmor teaches computer systems in which a high degree of security is required. Talmor, at col. 4, line 66 to col. 5, line 6 states, "The present invention is of a system and method for establishing a positive or negative identity of a speaker which employ at least two different voice authentication devices and which can be used for supervising a controlled access into a secured system. Specifically, the present invention can be used to provide voice authentication characterized by exceptionally low false-acceptance and low false-rejection rates." Furthermore, Talmor is concerned not with only Internet access, but more broadly, a remote communication mode "selected from the group consisting of wire telephone communication, cellular telephone communication, computer phone communication (e.g., Internet), and radio communication." Col. 3, lines 62-65.

On the one hand, Kondo is directed to systems that open up voice access to the Internet to as many people as possible. On the other hand, Talmor is solely concerned with limiting access to a remote system, which may be accessed via the Internet, to authorized users. The references are inherently contradictory in that pertinent regard, which defeats the purported motivation to combine the references. Kondo seeks to open access for all, while Talmor is directed to keeping secure sites secure. Only with impermissible hindsight would one be motivated to combine these

references. In re Deuel, 34 U.S.P.Q.2d 1210 (Fed. Cir. 1995) (reversing a rejection of claims because of impermissible hindsight in combining references).

In response to the Applicant's arguments against combining the references, the Examiner has argued that the references are in the same field of endeavor because both are drawn to voice recognition implementation in a computer network, and that they are combined to provide for user voice authentication for access to a voice command navigation system. Office Action, page 5, lines 7-9. This merely restates the invention without providing any motivation or reason why one would *wish* to combine a reference teaching easy access with a reference teaching "hard" security to keep a secure site from being accessed by unauthorized users.

The Examiner has not given a sufficient motivation for combining the references which outweighs the contradictory teachings concerning the level of access for users on the Internet. The prior art must be considered in its entirety, including portions that would lead away from the claimed invention. M.P.E.P. § 2141.02. Therefore, the first condition stated in M.P.E.P. § 2143 for establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the motivation for combining the references, is not met. Accordingly, the rejection of Claims 1, 7, 9, 13, 15, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 30 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is improper.

Claims 2, 8, and 14

These claims have an additional limitation of "wherein the data includes a voice-activated application, the navigation commands controlling execution of the application." Applicant has already argued above that it is improper to combine the references to reject Claims 2, 8, and 14. This limitation from Claims 2, 8, and 14 is not specifically found in either reference. Thus, even the improperly-combined references do not disclose or suggest all the limitations of the claimed invention. Therefore, the rejections of Claims 2, 8, and 14 is error.

The Examiner cites Kondo as disclosing this limitation, wherein the only citation is to "see Abstract." The Abstract cites no such limitations, stating only that SAM (Speech Aware Multimedia) now has the capability to browse Japanese pages, and that there are challenges to the use of the Japanese language for browsing. A

rejection of claims based on a based on a combination of elements disclosed in the prior art must be based on the *specific* combination that was made by the applicant. In re Kotzab, 55 U.S.P.Q.2d 1313, 1316 (Fed. Cir. 2000) (emphasis added).

There is no specific disclosure in Kondo of anything other than browsing; there is no disclosure of using voice commands in executing a voice-activated application. Even the improperly-combined references do not disclose all the limitations of the inventions claimed in Claims 2, 8 and 14 of the present application. Therefore, it was error to rejection Claims 2, 8 and 14 of under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Even if the references disclose the limitations of Claims 2, 8, and 14, the rejection is in error because one would not be sufficiently motivated to combine the references.

Claim 3

Claim 3 has an additional limitation of "further comprising comparing the identity to a data base of persons cleared for access to the data, and allowing the user to access the data if the user is included in the database" Applicant has already argued above that it is improper to combine the references to reject Claim 3.

The rejections by the Examiner do not match the claim elements for Claim 3. The rejection is predicated on a different claim limitation, "a method wherein the user accesses the web site from at least one of a computer and a telephone," (Office Action, p. 3, lines 8-10), that does not match the claimed limitations. Accordingly, the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case that the above-mentioned specific limitation claimed in Claim 3 was disclosed or suggested in the prior art. Therefore, it was error to reject Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Even if the references disclose the limitations of Claim 3, the rejection is in error because one would not be sufficiently motivated to combine the references.

Claims 4, 10, 16, and 32

These claims have an added limitation of "further comprising determining a language from the voice signals." Applicant has already argued above that it is improper to combine the references to reject Claims 4, 10, 16, and 32.

The rejection states that Kondo discloses this limitation on page 1152, section 3.1. This section, overall architecture, discusses the use of Japanese SAM, including its application as a flexible vocabulary Japanese speech recognition system. There is a detailed discussion of the several modules of the Japanese SAM. There is no mention discernable to Applicant, however, of "determining a language from the voice signals." Accordingly, the Examiner has not shown that the specific combination of elements claimed in Claims 4, 10, 16, and 32 was disclosed or suggested in the prior art. Therefore, it was error to reject Claims 4, 10, 16, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Even if the references disclose the limitations of Claims 4, 10, 16, and 32, the rejection is in error because one would not be sufficiently motivated to combine the references.

Claims 5, 11, 17, and 33

These claims have an additional limitation of "further comprising utilizing artificial intelligence to interact with the user." Applicant has already argued above that it is improper to combine the references to reject Claims 5, 11, 17, and 33.

The rejection states that Kondo discloses utilizing artificial intelligence to interact with the user, citing Fig. 1, "ruled heuristics." Fig. 1 in Applicant's copy of Kondo has a single box with words that state "rules heuristics" on two lines, suggesting that what is meant is "rules, heuristics" or "rules and heuristics." This box has an arrow that feeds into a box labeled "grammar preparation." Rather than interacting with the user, this passage appears to discuss conversion of the "current Web page" into a recognition grammar to be fed to the speech recognizer, using ordinary rules and grammar for language understanding and conversion. Kondo, p. 1152, col. 2, lines 1-11. The text of Kondo states, "The phonetic string and the URL are fed to the grammar preparation module for conversion to a recognition grammar

to be fed to the speech recognizer." *Id.*, lines 9-11. Thus, this passage contains no specific reference to artificial intelligence "interacting" with a user. Accordingly, the Examiner has not shown that the specific combination of elements claimed in Claims 5, 11, 17, and 33 was disclosed or suggested in the prior art. Therefore, it was error to reject Claims 5, 11, 17, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Even if the references disclose the limitations of Claims 5, 11, 17, and 33, the rejection is in error because one would not be sufficiently motivated to combine the references.

Claims 6, 12 and 18

These claims have an additional limitation "wherein the selected data includes voice signals and is output to a telephone." Applicant has already argued above that it is improper to combine the references to reject Claims 6, 12, and 18.

The rejection states that Kondo discloses this limitation on page 1153, Fig. 1 and the Abstract. Neither Fig. 1 nor the abstract disclose or suggest data that is output to a telephone, as required by Claims 6, 12 and 18. Fig. 1 contains no mention of a telephone, but does mention "phonetic models" in the lowest box of Fig. 1. The abstract states that one of the accomplishments of Kondo is that they may now use Japanese speech, including "continuous speech recognition with Japanese context-dependent phonetic models." Abstract, lines 6-7. This makes sense of the passages in the Abstract, in lines 10 and 15, concerning "text-to-phone" conversion: these passage refer to "text-to-phonetic" conversion. Even if the passages did not concern phonetics, the claim limitation concerns data that is *output*, not commands that are input. Therefore, it is error to reject Claims 6, 12 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Even if the references disclosed the limitations of Claims 6, 12, and 18, the rejection is in error because one would not be sufficiently motivated to combine the references.

Claim 21

The Examiner rejected Claims 19-33, saying merely that Claims 19-33 are similar in scope to Claims 1-6, and are rejected under the same rationale. Office Action, p. 3, last three lines. Applicant has already argued above that it is improper to combine the references to reject Claim 21.

Claim 21, and independent Claim 19 from which Claim 21 depends, are directed to a method for recognizing voice commands, with limitations different from Claims 1-6 and also different from Claims 7-18 of the present application. The rejection provided no specific rejection or rationale for the claim limitations of independent Claim 19, or for dependent Claim 21.

The Examiner cited no reference for the specific limitation of Claim 21, which claims the method of Claim 19 "wherein the voice signal is characterized by statistical parameters." The present application has a detailed discussion of the statistical treatment of voice signal parameters, see pp. 34-74. Such statistical parameters are not mentioned in Talmor and also not in Kondo.

Accordingly, the Examiner has not shown that the specific combination of elements claimed in Claim 21 was disclosed or suggested in the prior art. Therefore, it was error to reject Claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Even if the references disclose the limitations of Claim 21, the rejection is in error because one would not be sufficiently motivated to combine the references.

Claim 23

The Examiner rejected Claims 19-33, saying merely that Claims 19-33 are similar in scope to Claims 1-6, and are rejected under the same rationale. Office Action, p. 3, last three lines. Applicant has already argued above that it is improper to combine the references to reject Claim 23.

Claim 23, and independent Claim 19 from which Claim 23 depends, are directed to a method for recognizing voice commands, with limitations different from Claims 1-6 and also different from Claims 7-18 of the present application. The rejection provided no specific rejection or rationale for the claim limitations of independent Claim 19, or for dependent Claim 23.

The Examiner cited no reference for the specific limitation of Claim 23, which claims the method of Claim 19 "wherein the step of receiving voice signals is accomplished at a first site and the step of comparing is accomplished at a second site." The present application discusses this method on pp. 84-85, with reference to Fig. 29. Using different sites is not mentioned in Talmor and also not in Kondo.

Accordingly, the Examiner has not shown that the specific combination of elements claimed in Claim 23 was disclosed or suggested in the prior art. Therefore, it was error to reject Claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Even if the references disclose the limitations of Claim 23, the rejection is in error because one would not be sufficiently motivated to combine the references.

Claims 26-29

The Examiner rejected Claims 19-33, saying merely that Claims 19-33 are similar in scope to Claims 1-6, and are rejected under the same rationale. Office Action, p. 3, last three lines. Applicant has already argued above that it is improper to combine the references to reject Claims 26-29.

Claims 26-29 claim a system for accessing and navigating data on the Internet using voice signals. Independent Claim 26 lists a number of limitations, including a transducer for transducing and transmitting signals indicative of a voice, a terminal for receiving signals indicative of the voice, the terminal further comprising a receiver, an analog front end, and a codec. The limitations also include an interface between the terminal and a processor and a processor for receiving and processing signals from the transducer and the terminal through the interface, wherein a user inputs a voice signal to the transducer, access to the data on the Internet is allowed if the voice signal matches a previously-stored voice signal from the user using at least two voice-authentication algorithms, and the system interprets the voice signals of the user for determining navigation commands.

The Office Action has not cited these limitations in Talmor or in Kondo. The Examiner has cited no specific site in the references for any of these limitations of Claim 26, nor for any of the references in dependent Claims 27-29. Accordingly, the Examiner has not shown that the specific combination of elements claimed in Claims

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26-29 was disclosed or suggested in the prior art. Therefore, it was error to reject Claims 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

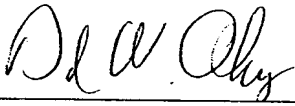
Even if the references disclose the limitations of Claims 26-29, the rejection is in error because one would not be sufficiently motivated to combine the references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, Applicant submits that the claimed invention is not unpatentably obvious over the references of record, and that the Examiner has not made out a *prima facie* case of obviousness for these claims. Accordingly, Applicant requests reversal of the rejections of Claims 1-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The reversal of all the rejections appears to be in order and is earnestly solicited.

The fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17 (f) for filing this Appeal Brief is submitted with the accompanying transmittal.

Respectfully submitted,

 July 24, 2003

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IX. Appendix Claims in the Application

1. A method for recognizing voice commands for manipulating data on the Internet, comprising the steps of:

providing data on a website on the Internet;

receiving voice signals from a user accessing the website;

establishing an identity of the user through at least two voice authentication algorithms;

interpreting the voice signals of the user for determining navigation commands; and

outputting selected data of the website based on the navigation commands.

2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the data includes a voice-activated application, the navigation commands controlling execution of the application.

3. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising comparing the identity to a data base of persons cleared for access to the data; and

allowing the user to access the data if the user is included in the database.

4. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising determining a language from the voice signals.

5. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising utilizing artificial intelligence to interact with the user.

6. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the selected data includes voice signals and is output to a telephone.

7. (Twice Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for recognizing voice commands for manipulating data on the Internet, comprising:

a code segment that provides data on a website on the Internet;

a code segment that receives voice signals from a user accessing the website;

a code segment that compares the voice signals from the user with a previously-recorded voice sample to establish an identity of the user, using at least two voice-authentication algorithms;

a code segment that interprets the voice signals of the user for determining navigation commands; and

a code segment that outputs selected data of the website based on the navigation commands.

8. A computer program as recited in claim 7, wherein the data includes a voice-activated application, the navigation commands controlling execution of the application.

9. A computer program as recited in claim 7, wherein the user accesses the website from at least one of a computer and a telephone.

10. A computer program as recited in claim 7, further comprising a code segment that determines a language from the voice signals.

11. A computer program as recited in claim 7, further comprising a code segment that utilizes artificial intelligence to interact with the user.

12. A computer program as recited in claim 7, wherein the selected data includes voice signals and is output to a telephone.

13. A system for recognizing voice commands for manipulating data on the Internet, comprising:

logic that provides data on a website on the Internet;

logic that receives voice signals from a user accessing the website;

logic that compares the voice signals from the user to previously-stored voice samples of the user to establish an identity of the user, using at least two voice-authentication algorithms;

logic that interprets the voice signals of the user for determining navigation commands; and

logic that outputs selected data of the website based on the navigation commands.

14. A system as recited in claim 13, wherein the data includes a voice-activated application, the navigation commands controlling execution of the application.

15. A system as recited in claim 13, wherein the user accesses the website from at least one of a computer and a telephone.

16. A system as recited in claim 13, further comprising logic that determines a language from the voice signals.

17. A system as recited in claim 13, further comprising logic that utilizes artificial intelligence to interact with the user.

18. A system as recited in claim 13, wherein the selected data includes voice signals and is output to a telephone.

19. (Amended) A method for recognizing voice commands for manipulating data on the Internet, the method comprising:

receiving a voice signal from a person cleared for access to the data;

characterizing the voice signal and storing a plurality of parameters indicative of a voice of the person;

receiving voice signals from a user desiring access to the data;

comparing the voice signals to a data base of voice signals for persons cleared for access to the data, using at least two voice-authentication algorithms; allowing the user to access the data if the user is included in the database; and interpreting the voice signals of the user for determining navigation commands.

20. The method of Claim 19 further comprising outputting selected data based on the navigation commands.

21. The method of Claim 19 wherein the voice signal is characterized by statistical parameters.

22. The method of Claim 19 wherein the step of comparing is accomplished with a speech recognition algorithm.

23. The method of Claim 19 wherein the step of receiving voice signals is accomplished at a first site and the step of comparing is accomplished at a second site.

24. The method of Claim 19 further comprising:

generating a signal indicative of a result of the step of comparing; and
sending the signal to a processing unit allowing access to the data.

25. The method of Claim 19 wherein the voice signal from a person is a password and the data to which access is allowed depends on the password.

26. A system for accessing and navigating data on the Internet using voice signals, comprising:

a transducer for transducing and transmitting signals indicative of a voice;
a terminal for receiving signals indicative of the voice, the terminal further comprising a receiver, an analog front end, and a codec;
an interface between the terminal and a processor; and
a processor for receiving and processing signals from the transducer and the terminal through the interface,

wherein a user inputs a voice signal to the transducer, access to the data on the Internet is allowed if the voice signal matches a previously-stored voice signal from the user using at least two voice-authentication algorithms, and the system interprets the voice signals of the user for determining navigation commands.

27. The system of Claim 26, wherein the transducer is selected from the group consisting of a microphone, an optical transducer, and a radio-frequency transducer.

28. The system of Claim 26, wherein the interface is selected from the group consisting of an interface circuit, and a transmitter for transmitting digitized sound data and a terminal for receiving the digitized sound data.

29. The system of Claim 26, wherein the interface comprises a digital signal processor, a transmitter, a terminal unit, and an interface circuit, wherein the receiver conditions sounds from the transducer, the codec performs an analog-to-digital conversion of the conditioned sounds, the digital signal processor analyzes a signal of the digitized sound to extract spectral and statistical data, and the transmitter transmit the data to the processor for receiving and processing signals.

30. A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for recognizing voices and voice commands for accessing and manipulating data on the Internet, the program comprising:

- a code segment for receiving and digitizing voice signals from a user;
- a code segment for analyzing the voice signals and determining statistical parameters indicative of the voice and voice commands from the user;
- a code segment for identifying and storing statistical parameters indicative of a voice signal from a user;

a code segment that interprets voice signals and voice commands of the user for determining an identity of the user using at least two voice-authentication algorithms; and

a code segment for navigating on the Internet.

31. The program of Claim 30, further comprising a code segment that outputs selected data of the website based on navigation commands from the user.

32. The program of Claim 30, further comprising a code segment that determines a language from the voice and voice commands of the user.

33. The program of Claim 30, further comprising a code segment that utilizes artificial intelligence to interact with the user.